

ANN G. BARKER.

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FEBRUARY 19, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BLISS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 12604.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12604) to restore the pension of Mrs. Ann G. Barker, have examined the same and report:

Mrs. Ann G. Barker, as the widow of Thomas Barker, deceased, late a captain in the U. S. Army, received a pension of \$25 per month until the passage by Congress of a law in 1868, the provisions of which were construed by the Secretary of the Interior to require him to reduce said pension to \$20 per month, which has been the amount received by Mrs. Barker since that time.

The widows of officers of the Navy were included within the provisions of the aforesaid law, but Congress restored, their pensions by the act of June 9, 1880, entitled "An act to restore pensions in certain cases," and the object of this bill is to include Mrs. Barker within the provisions of said act.

Thomas Barker entered the service of the United States at the beginning of the war with Great Britain as an officer of New York volunteers, serving with the army under General Scott in campaign in western New York and Canada with some distinction. He was, at the instance of the commanding general, appointed first lieutenant Forty-first United States Infantry, August 1, 1813, and promoted captain November 17 of that year. At the close of the war the additional regiments raised for its prosecution were disbanded and he was honorably discharged. He was commissioned second lieutenant in the First Regiment of Infantry February 3, 1819, promoted first lieutenant July 23, 1820, captain May 31, 1829.

Under the last-named commission he was engaged in the Indian wars in Florida, being present in nearly all the battles, from the first uprising in 1832 to that at Caloosahatchie, July 23, 1839. Captain Barker died November 11, 1839, at Tampa, Fla., being one of the victims of the double epidemic then raging—cholera and yellow fever. The widow of Captain Barker, Mrs. Ann G. Barker, is now nearly eighty-nine years old; is and has been for a number of years almost helpless from rheumatism and loss of sight, requiring assistance in dressing and moving about her room, which she has not left for about ten years. She is entirely dependent upon her daughter, who is employed in the Treasury Department at a salary of \$75 per month.

After a review of the facts the committee report the bill back and recommend its passage.